

CLAIMS OF THE APPLICATION

1. (Currently amended) A compound which is a crystalline Form Z of rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium, having substantially the same X-ray diffraction pattern as shown in Figure 1.
2. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 having an X-ray diffraction pattern, expressed in terms of 2 theta angles, that includes four or more peaks selected from the group consisting of 4.69 ± 0.09 , 9.07 ± 0.09 , 9.42 ± 0.09 , 11.25 ± 0.09 , 14.71 ± 0.09 , 16.24 ± 0.09 , 17.26 ± 0.09 , 18.52 ± 0.09 , 19.32 ± 0.09 , 19.63 ± 0.09 , 19.92 ± 0.09 , 20.80 ± 0.09 , 21.48 ± 0.09 , 23.07 ± 0.09 , 24.81 ± 0.09 , 25.70 ± 0.09 , 27.47 ± 0.09 , 30.01 ± 0.09 , 30.65 ± 0.09 , 33.37 ± 0.09 , and 36.95 ± 0.09 .
3. (Original) The compound of claim 2 having an X-ray diffraction pattern expressed in terms of 2 theta angles and obtained with a diffractometer equipped with a Cu K alpha-1 radiation source, wherein said X-ray powder diffraction pattern includes five or more peaks selected from the group consisting of peaks with 2 theta angles of about 4.694 , 9.070 , 9.417 , 11.254 , 14.712 , 16.241 , 17.264 , 18.522 , 18.522 , 19.320 , 19.626 , 19.920 , 20.802 , 21.477 , 23.073 , 24.814 , 25.702 , 27.470 , 30.009 , 30.653 , 33.365 , and 36.950 .
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, which has an endo-exo pattern with identified peaks of about $106.5^\circ C$ and $228.8^\circ C$ in its differential scanning calorimetry thermogram.
6. (Currently amended) A composition comprising rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium as a solid, wherein at least 80% by weight of said sold rabeprazole sodium is a

crystalline Form Z of rabeprazole sodium, having substantially the same X-ray diffraction pattern as shown in Figure 1.

7. (Currently amended) Rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 90% by weight of said solid rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

8. (Currently amended) Rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 95% by weight of said solid rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

9. (Currently amended) Rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium of claim 6, wherein at least 99% by weight of said solid rabeprazole 2-[4-(3-methoxypropoxy)-3-methyl-2-pyridinyl]-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole sodium is the crystalline Form Z.

10-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, having substantially the same differential scanning calorimetry curve as shown in Figure 2.

27. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, having a melting point of about 224-230° C.